



HOUSE BILL 691: Limit Soldiers CC Tuition

2013-2014 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education, if favorable, Appropriations	Date:	May 7, 2013
Introduced by:	Reps. Szoka, Hastings, Malone, Martin	Prepared by:	Denise Adams
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition		Legislative Analyst
	H691-CSTB-16		

SUMMARY: *House Bill 691 would waive the difference in cost between the out-of-state tuition rate and the amount of tuition assistance available from the Department of Defense for active duty members of the Armed Forces.*

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 691 would clarify that waiving the cost difference would only apply to active duty members of the Armed Forces who had previously been enrolled in a degree or other program at a community college at the time of deployment or reassignment and who reenroll in the same program within 18 months of deployment or reassignment, and changes the long title to reflect this change.

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, any active duty member of the Armed Forces who qualifies for admission to the UNC system or a community college, but does not qualify as a resident for in-state tuition purposes, is eligible to be charged in-State tuition while stationed in North Carolina. If the member is reassigned outside of the State, the member continues to be eligible for in-State tuition as long as the member is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the member was enrolled at the time the member is reassigned.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS adds a new subsection to G.S. 116-143.3, the statute governing tuition of Armed Forces personnel and their dependents. The PCS provides that if the amount of the out-of-state tuition rate for a community college exceeds the amount of federal tuition assistance available from the federal government for active duty members of the Armed Forces, the cost difference will be waived if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The active duty member of the Armed Forces (member) was enrolled in a degree or other program and receiving in-State tuition at the time of deployment or reassignment.
2. The member was not able to remain continuously enrolled in the degree or other program at the community college due to deployment or reassignment.
3. The member reenrolls in the same degree or other program at the community college in which the member was enrolled at the time the member was deployed or reassigned within 18 months of deployment or reassignment.
4. The member does not otherwise qualify for the in-State tuition rate.

The PCS also provides that the amount of tuition charged to an active duty member of the Armed Forces eligible to receive this waiver must not be lower than the in-State tuition rate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the Department of Defense tuition assistance pays up to \$250 per credit hour. The current out-of-state tuition cost per credit hour at the community college is \$261.

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